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THE ANDHRA PRADESH GAZETTE
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PART VII EXTRAORDINARY

No.7

AMARAVATI, MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021

G.639

NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT

A.P. STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

1st Floor, New HODs Building, M.G. Road, Vijayawada-520010.

RESCHEDULING OF PHASE-I GRAM PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS, 2021

No.30/SEC-B2/2021

Date: 25.01.2021

NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS, the State Election Commission announced schedule on 08.01.2021 for conduct of ordinary elections to Gram Panchayats in the State in 4 Phases;

AND WHEREAS, the State Government filed Writ Petition No.1158/2021 in the Hon'ble High Court on 09.01.2021 seeking direction to the State Election Commission to forbear from proceeding further with the proposed election process to the local bodies in pursuance of its Proceedings dt.08.01.2021;

AND WHEREAS, the Single Judge of the Hon'ble High Court suspended the orders dt.08.01.2021 of the State Election Commission in judgment dt.11.01.2021 in the said writ petition;

AND WHEREAS, the State Election Commission filed Writ Appeal No.24/2021 on 12.01.2021 before the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court seeking to suspend the interim orders passed in W.P. No.1158/2021 on 11.01.2021;

AND WHEREAS, the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court in its judgment dt.21.01.2021 in W.A.24/2021 has cleared the decks for holding Gram Panchayat elections as per the schedule already announced by the Commission by setting aside the interim orders dt.11.01.2021;

AND WHEREAS, the State Government in its letter dt.22.01.2021 stated that an SLP (Diary No.1796/2021 has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the order dt. 21.01.2021 in W.A.24/2021 passed by the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court and requested the Commission not to proceed further and await the hearing of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter;

AND WHEREAS, the State Election Commission convened a video conference with the Collectors, Superintendents of Police and other district officials on 23.01.2021 at 3:00 pm and a communication was also sent to the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Principal Secretary (Panchayat Raj), Principal Finance Secretary and Commissioner (Panchayat Raj) to join the State Election Commissioner to review the preparedness for conduct of Gram Panchayat elections besides requesting the Chief Secretary to give necessary permission to the Collectors and other district officials to participate in it;

AND WHEREAS, the State Government officials neither participated nor issued instructions to the Collectors and other officials to participate in said video conference and a communication was received from the Chief Secretary requesting to defer the Video Conference on 23.01.2021 as the Government has filed an SLP in the Hon'ble Supreme Court;

AND WHEREAS, the Commission has received information from several quarters that necessary arrangements were not made by the district administrations to receive nominations scheduled from 25.01.2021 for Phase-I of Gram Panchayat elections awaiting instructions from the Government;

AND WHEREAS, the State Election Commission came to a conclusion that the election process has been vitiated as the district administration has not made arrangements for receiving nominations for the Phase-I Gram Panchayat elections scheduled from 25.01.2021;

AND WHEREAS, the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 25.01.2021 pronounced in SLP filed by the Government has upheld the judgment of the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court paving the way for conduct of Gram Panchayat elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, under the above circumstances, the State Election Commission in exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 7 of Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2006 read with Section 200 & 201-A(1) of Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (Act 13 of 1994) and Article 243K of the Constitution of India, hereby, reschedules the Phase-I Gram Panchayat elections notified vide Notification No.30/SEC-B2/2021, dt.23.01.2021, as indicated in Annexure-I appended to this Notification, as Phase-IV of Gram Panchayat elections. The Revenue Division and the Mandals were already indicated in the Commission's Notification dt.23.01.2021. As a consequence thereof, the Phase-II, Phase-III and Phase-IV Gram Panchayat elections notified in the said Notification dt.23.01.2021 will become Phase-I, Phase-II and Phase-III respectively.

N. RAMESH KUMAR
State Election Commissioner
Andhra Pradesh

ANNEXURE-I

(Notification No.30/SEC-B2/2021, Date: 25.01.2021)

ORDINARY ELECTIONS TO GRAM PANCHAYATS – 2021**ELECTION SCHEDULE FOR PHASE-IV**

S. No	ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE
1.	(a) Date of issue of Election Notice by the Returning Officer in Form-I under Rule 6 of Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2006.	10.02.2021 (From this date, nominations can be filed between 10.30 A.M.to 5.00 P.M.)
	(b) Display of Ward-wise electoral roll of Gram Panchayat by Returning Officer under Rule 5 of said rules.	10.02.2021
2.	Last Day for Receipt of Nominations	12.02.2021 (Up to 5:00 PM)
3.	Scrutiny of Nominations	13.02.2021 (From 8:00 AM onwards)
4.	Appeal against Rejection of Nominations before the Appellate Authority (Revenue Divisional Officer concerned)	14.02.2021 (Up to 5:00 PM)
5.	Disposal of Appeals by the Appellate Authority	15.02.2021
6.	Last date for Withdrawal of Candidatures	16.02.2021 (Upto 3:00 PM)
7.	Publication of Final List of Contesting Candidates	16.02.2021 (After 3:00 PM)
8.	Conduct of Poll, wherever necessary	21.02.2021 (From 6.30 AM to 3.30 PM)
9.	Counting of Votes	21.02.2021 (From 4.00 PM onwards)
10.	Declaration of Results	Soon after the completion of counting of votes
11.	(a) Date of conduct of election of Upa-Sarpanch under Section 14 (10) of Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994.	On the same date on which results are declared.
	(b) If for any reason, the election of Upa-Sarpanch is not held on the date aforesaid, it shall be held on the next day, whether or not it is a holiday observed by the Gram Panchayat.	

NOTE: The Collectors & District Election Authorities shall ensure that no election notice is given in respect of Gram Panchayats where a Court of law issued orders restraining the holding of elections to them (or) holding of election is not feasible due to administrative / legal impediments.

N. RAMESH KUMAR
State Election Commissioner
Andhra Pradesh
